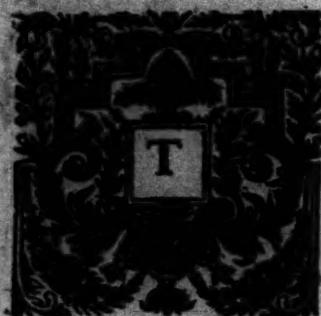


*Printed at the Sign of the Key*  
K  
**R E A S O N S**

Humbly Offered

*77. 2. 1.*  
28

Against part of the Bill For the better Viewing, Search-  
ing, and Examining Drugs, Medicines, &c.  
*bill read 12 Feb. 1724.*



**T**HAT the *Apothecaries* are far from being averse from any more reasonable provision which may be made, to prevent the Sale of Unwholsom and Defective Medicines, but humbly conceive the Powers constituting the *Censors* Judges, Partys and Witnesses, and the Subjecting the Properties of Numbers of Persons to be Arbitrarily Destroyed, and their Reputation ruined, without reasonable time to make a proper Defence, are unusual, and what no other part of His Majestys Subjects are liable to, even tho' accused of the greatest Crimes.

By the immediate destroying the Drugs and Medicines, all opportunity of Appeal, or reviewing the Sentence of the *Censors*, (which may be as hasty and sudden as they think fit,) is taken away, which is conceived is the right of every Subject; and that such a Power cannot safely be granted to any inferior Judicature.

This Province of Searching will probably in Time be left to *Junior* Physicians, who have the most Leisure; and how far they may have qualify'd themselves for so high a Trust, will be hard to say, considering the great Number of *Drugs* and *Simples* used in Physick, and the almost insuperable Difficulty of judging of Compounds, which none can be supposed to do but those that have been long versed in the making of them.

That the Company of *Apothecaries* have already by Charter a Correction of their own Members, and a Power to Fine them for bad Medicines, which they constantly put in Practice, by frequent Searches and Fines. And in Fact, the great Quantity of faulty and defective Drugs and Medicines made and vended, (especially in the Country) cannot in Justice be applyed to their Body; it being notorious that the North of England is chiefly supply'd from *York*, and the West from *Bristol*, and the rest by a few Chymists and Druggists who carry and hawk their Medicines about. Nor have the Company been deficient in using their utmost Endeavours for promoting the Knowledge of *Drugs* and *Simples*, and the instructing their Members therein.

By obliging all their Apprentices to a Service of Eight Years.

By appointing at their Charge several publick Days of Herbarizing in each Year, with proper Leaders.

By establishing at a very great Expende a publick Physick Garden at *Chelsea*, the only one of Note in the Nation, wherein they have of late been much encouraged and favoured by the great Liberality of a very eminent and learned Physician.

By erecting a publick Elaboratory for the genuine Preparation of all Chymical Medicines (being the most difficult to be judged of) in such a Manner as may be depended upon.

Which Methods have had their desired Effects, and they believe they may without Vanity affirm, that the *Materia Medica* is no where better, or more generally known, and taken Care of than amongst the Members of their Society, which chiefly consists of those that have been the Sons of the Reverend the Clergy, and of Gentlemen. And for Proof of this amongst other Things, crave Leave to appeal to the great and long Experience which has been made of their Behaviour in this Matter, during their Service of his Majesty in the Fleet, and the *East-India* and *South-Sea* Companys, for their Factorys.

It's humbly conceiv'd, that if there had been so great Reason of Complaint against the *Apothecaries* in about *London*, as is insinuated, some Notice thereof would have come from the Nobility, Gentry, and Citizens whom they attend; but that not appearing, and the College being the only Promoters of this Bill, it's humbly submitted whether other Considerations of Power and immediate Interest, may not be the great Inducements thereto.

That if the Bill does pass, it's apprehended the same cannot be of any Advantage to the Country, since besides the great Quantities of Medicines made at *York* and *Bristol*, it will be easy for the Country to have given the Occasion for this Bill) to keep Ware-Houses without the Seven Miles, and from whence to send on their private Dealings.

It's therefore hoped, that no specious Pretences whatsoever will be thought sufficient to introduce a contrary and Unlimited Power, or put the *Apothecaries* under a Necessity of submitting to all the Burdens that may be imposed on them, by those who have their Fortunes and Reputation in their Power, who will not give their Votes on Elections, or otherwise.

Humbly Offered

B E N T O N